(b) and (c) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 permits use of only those colours which have been recognised as safe by FAO/WHO and they are permitted, only in specified articles of food within prescribed limit.

At present there is no proposal to ban the use of synthetic colour in sweets. However a multicentric study on intake of Food colours has already been initiated to review use of synthetic colours in food.

**Aluminium Toxicity**

1747. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report on 'Risk of Aluminium Toxicity in the Indian Context' in I.C.M.R. Bulletin No. 8, Vol. 29, has come to the notice of Government; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to reduce the risk of Aluminium Toxicity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to I.C.M.R. bulletin, though the- neurotoxic potential of aluminium is undisputed in various animal species, there is as yet no strong evidence to suggest that aluminium could be toxic to normal healthy humans.

**Expenditure on Health and Medical Care**

†1748. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 6 per cent of gross domestic product is spent by Government in the field of health and medical care;

(b) if not, what is the average annual expenditure in this regard;

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†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that the percentage of the said amount is much more in Bangladesh, Pakistan, China, Russia, America, Japan etc., than that in India; and

(d) if so, the details regarding said expenditure in those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) As per the World Health Report, 1999 published by WHO, the total health expenditure as a percentage of GDP for the period around 1995 was *5.6* of which 1.2 percent was from public sector.

(c) and (d) A statement showing health expenditure as percentage of GDP in some selected countries for the period around 1995 is attached. (S«? below) From this statement, it is event that total health expenditure as percentage of GDP in India is more than that of Bangaldesh, Pakistan, China and Russian Federation. However, it is lower than that of America and Japan.

**Statement**

*Health Expenditure as a percentage of GDP for the Period Around 1995 in selected countries*

| SI. No. | Name of the country | Total (% of GDP) | ----------; ---------- (% of GDP) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | India | 5.6 | 1.2 |
| 2. | Bangladesh | 2.4 | 1.2 |
| 3. | Pakistan | 3.5 | 0.8 |
| 4. | China | 3.8 | 2.1 |
| 5. | Russian Federation | 4.8 | 4.1 |
| 6. | U.S.A. | 14.0 | 6.6 |
| 7. | Japan | 7.2 | 5.6 |

SOURCE: WHO, the World Health Report, 1999—Making a Difference.